

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092287

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, DR

SUBJECT: PRD VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN THE DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC

1. PRD SECRETARY GENERAL PENA GOMEZ MET WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY TODMAN APRIL 22. MEETING WAS ARRANGED AT
THE REQUEST OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD FRASER. PENA SAID
THE PRD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAD ASKED HIM TO CONVEY
HIS PARTY'S WARM SUPPORT FOR THE FOREIGN POLICY OF
PRESIDENT CARTER.

2. PENA GOMEZ EXPRESSED VIEWS THAT THE DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARD
DEMOCRACY IN RECENT YEARS, EXEMPLIFIED BY THE COUNTRY'S
FREE PRESS AND FREEDOM FOR OPPOSITION PARTIES, THAT
PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS BEEN A VERY TALENTED AND
CAPABLE POLITICAL LEADER, AND THAT THE PRD IS OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORE
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COMPLETE DEMOCRACY IN THE 1978 GENERAL ELECTIONS. HIS
PARTY'S ONLY CONCERN, PENA SAID, IS POSSIBLE INTERVENTION
BY THE DOMINICAN MILITARY IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS,
ALTHOUGH THE MILITARY HAS BECOME MORE MODERATE.
PENA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE US WOULD PLAY A POSITIVE
ROLE IN HELPING TO ENSURE THAT THE MAY 1978 ELECTIONS
ARE BASICALLY FREE. THE ELECTIONS, HE SAID, WOULD BE

A "TEST CASE" FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE HEMISPHERE.

3. TODMAN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PENA'S VIEWS.
MEMCON ON MEETING BEING POUCHED TO POST.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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